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NOVEMBER 1979.



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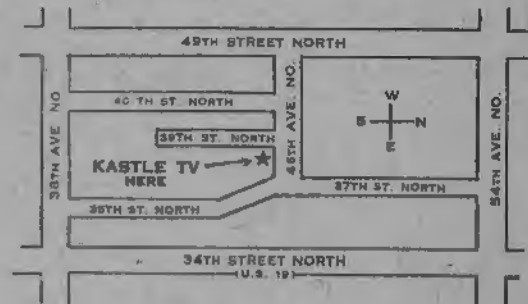
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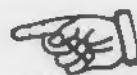


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SPARC REPEATER NEWS

Seems like everybody is too busy doing what has to be done today and can't think much about what may have to be done tomorrow. However, a few of the repeater Engineering Staff were able to get together and consider some maintenance projects which need to be done to the machine. We have the SPECTRUM pre-amplifier to re-install. The monolithic filter pre-amplifier needs to be wired so it will work when system is on either A.C. or battery power, retaining ability to work with stand-by rig. Re-do coax cables so they will be neat and right length for each anticipated mode of operation. Replace A.C. switch damaged by lightning. Repair SCAP board and replace gain controls. Replace drifting TX crystal with new ICM crystal now on order. Install new special capacitors sent by SPECTRUM to improve TX Freq/Temperature stability. Provide a means to make TX and RX frequency adjustments without having to take the whole station apart. Wire the "AC Sensor" to the ID tone control to provide higher pitch when system on battery. Install "Stripper" -- the 300 Hz high-pass filter to reduce or eliminate the 100 Hz tone from the mobiles from being repeated when using CTCSS. Add an A.C. outlet strip in cabinet for greater flexibility. Change the I.D. to channel 2 -- "K4SCL/RPT" -- prior to 11-26-79, the expiration date of the WR4AIM license.

Perhaps we should order a different ID chip to say different things. Various possibilities are being investigated. It could indicate location "ST PETE" or club "SPARC" or operation on battery power "BAT" or "CTCSS," for example.

We have now purchased a total of 20 K-1 frequency elements for the ME-3 tone encoders and are offering these to control operators to ease the cost of encoder installations. We have sold one at cost. Several members are now ready to operate with CTCSS. W4IRA is working on repair of several ME-3 encoders to be made available to control operators.

Two hurricanes have hit our state in two weeks, giving many of us lots of practice with emergency procedures, but fortunately our local area was spared. Before you read this in SPARC GAP, there will be another big drill -- the aircraft disaster drill. Then, on October 6 and 7 we will have the Nationwide Simulated Emergency Test, S.E.T. It takes place the same week-end SPARC is committed to support boat races at Lake Maggiore. So let's keep the S.E.T. off of 146.49 this year and let the boat races have a clear channel. After all, the boat races are for real and the S.E.T. is a drill. Read up in QST what to do for S.E.T. and give your E.C. a hand with the local drills. More information on various branches of the Pinellas Emergency Net.

73 de K4SCL

SPARC GAP

Minutes of the Saint Petersburg Amateur Radio Club meeting.

The October meeting of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club, held at the American Red Cross Building, was called to order by John, WD4COL, at 8:06 PM EDT. Forty-six members and guests were welcomed and introduced.

The first order of business was to vote on the acceptance of candidates for membership. The following Radio Amateurs were accepted as members of the SPARC club effective this evening.

WA4SNC	Lester Anderson
W4CIS	Ronald E. Willett
W9UEM	Charles Campbell

Due to the illness of Jack Anderson, W4NOK, the SPARC Gap for the month of September was not printed. The next edition is planned to be the combination of two months and contributions to the issue are requested.

The minutes of the September meeting were not presented due to the lack of a September SPARC Gap and the absence due to illness of the Club Secretary Faith, WA4WOU.

The treasurer's report given by Frank, W4VIP, was read and approved.

Announcements:

John, WD4COL, announced that according to the provisions of the By-Laws, the month of October calls for the appointment of a nominating committee to solicit candidates for office for the following year. The committee consists of the following:

John Smith, W4ACG	Bill Shoppe, WB4DWA
Bob Smith, WB4OIG	

The slate of nominees will be presented at the November meeting with an election of officers taking place at the December meeting.

Brian, K4NAN, announced that amateurs will be providing the communications for the Suncoast Powerboat Regatta at Lake Maggiore on October 6 & 7, and asked that the frequency 146.490 be kept clear.

Ed, K4DRN, told of an experience that he had had getting an inquiry through to the Pensacola area shortly after Hurricane Frederick. The originator's of the request for information were very favorably impressed with receiving an answer to their inquiry about their aged relative in a little more than 'a couple of hours'.

Herb, W4IRA, announced that he has tickets for the 'Clearwater Hamvention', November 17 & 18, 1979.

Club Station Report

John, W4ACG, commented that he is very pleased with the service given the Club by the Ten-Tec Company with the problems experienced with the 'Omni-D'. The Omni is back in W4GAC and working perfectly. A problem exists with the Tri-Bander in that it appears to be free-wheeling. It is suspected that the rotor mounting is broken, and volunteers are needed to check it. Wes, WD4PUV, agreed to do the tower work with Rex, W4GPL, providing the technical supervision.

SPARC-GAP

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WA4MSY

WA4RLV

"73s"

WA4WKO

WA4FNK



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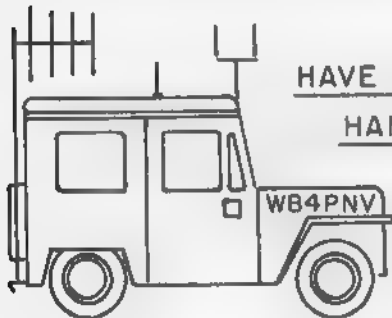
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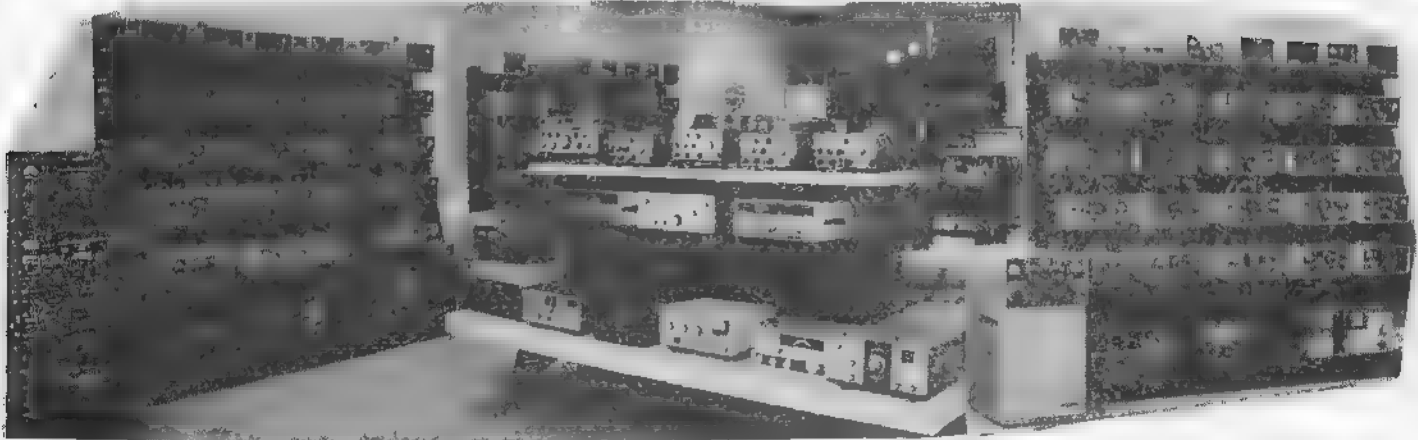
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CONT'D

SPARC GAP

SPARC Repeater report:

John, WD4COL, read a note sent by Hank, WA4WKO, suggesting several features which could be incorporated into the repeater.

Woody, K4SCL, reporting on the repeater stated that it is 'still working', and has had no need for maintenance for quite some time. Commenting on Hank's suggestions, he said that they are all good and possible, but they do require someone's time, and there appears to be a lack of people willing to devote the time needed to accomplish the tasks.

A 'Storm Alarm', donated by 'AGL Electronics', was auctioned off to the highest bidder with the money going to the Club treasury. Mac, K4EPH, is the proud possessor with the high bid of \$23.

A gift certificate from 'Ray's Amateur Radio' was given as a door prize. Brian, K4NAN, being the winner.

The meeting was adjourned for coffee, donuts, and fellowship from 8:35 to 8:50 PM.

Woodrow Huddleston (Woody), K4SCL, the Section Communications Manager for South Florida, gave a brief talk on the planned 'Simulated Emergency Test' to be conducted this next weekend. He commented on the fact that the dates for the S.E.T. had been changed from January to October because the Northern states were "up to their ears in real emergencies during the winter months". The Section Emergency Co-ordinator for this S.E.T. will be Bill, AA4WJ. The Assistant Emergency Co-ordinators are Rex, W4GPL in South Pinellas County and Jim, W4DPH, in Northern Pinellas County. As promised at an earlier date, Woody had copies of the Pinellas Emergency Plan available for all.

The planned problem of this year's S.E.T. will be Hurricane 'Jimmy', due to hit Florida at 8:00 A.M., October 6, 1979.

Rex, W4GPL, told of the plans for the South County Area which will require several amateurs contacting the various municipal agencies and receiving a message from the agency then transmitting the message from that location. Rex asks that each amateur send two messages during S.E.T. One to W4GAC and One to K4SCL.

Jim, W4DPH, stated that the response of the various municipalities and agencies has improved since the advent of the rains associated with hurricanes David and Frederick. They will be conducting their S.E.T. Exercises Sunday, October 7, and will be utilizing the frequencies of the Largo, SPARC, and 220 MHz repeaters.

Ed, K4DRN, expressed a word of thanks from Jim Keyes, K4FCW, thanking all for their cards and wishes. He is weak but doing fine.

With no more business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Jackson

Wes Jackson, WD4PUV
(Conscripted acting secretary)

1975

Princess Martha still scene of the SPARC Annual Installation Dinner. Those installed were: Pres., W4ACG-John Smith; WB4YTY-John Komp; V-Pres.; Secty., K4IJK-Janice Beaupre; & Treas., W4TDK-Naomi. SPARC Repeater Team are forging ahead & the good news at this time is the Repeater is DEBT FREE, as a commercial firm made a \$500. donation. A special QSL card was issued to the first 50 stations working through the Repeater.

W4FPC-Morgan "Mac" McSheehy, another long time member, joined the Silent Keys. He was one of the founders of Pinellas County Civil Defense & was awarded Presidential Citation in 1960, for his 10-year services in their program. "Mac" was also a "super" cw man.

With the Repeater license-W4ALM, 14666/06, received, the Repeater Team started in their Public Service work, providing communications for the ladies "Open Orange Blossom Golf Tourament"; wearing their new shirts, white with green lettering: across the back is "St. Pete. Amateur Radio Club; in front, the Call & Name; as well as a patch (for each team member), proclaiming they are member of "SPARC Repeater Team". This was a good beginning & their services, providing communications for the "Festival States Parades"; boat races, as well as reporting accidents, etc. are too numerous to mention. The membership in SPARC was increased, as most belong to both (SPARC dues \$4.00 & Repeater Team \$10.00). SPARC meetings held 1st Friday of each month & Repeater Team meeting 3rd Friday each month.

The usual fine Hamfest was held with an estimated 600 in attendance.

On June 6th, modified license, authorizing new remote control points, were received. These points are at the QTH of W4FNY/W4NFX; K4KE/WB4ZPU; W4NOK/W4NFA; K4FCW; W4CYM & WB4BNL, were named "Control Operators", who are assigned times to monitor & control the Repeater, so that it is monitored around the clock.

Board of Directors donated \$25.00 to the Sheriffs Boys Ranch, to improve their Amateur Radio Station. Check was presented to K4KE-Dave, who is working with the Boys Ranch. They sent SPARC certificate "Special Recognition as a Builder" in appreciation of the contribution.

Field Day was held at Coquina Key Recreation Park & was a big success. Twenty-one members participated, plus visitors.

On behalf of Red Cross, a Disaster Action Team was organized, with stations nominated: K4FCW; W4FNY; W4FFS; W4GPL; WB4KSJ; K4QCG; K4TH & WB4VWO; in event of local emergencies, any one of these stations may be contacted, so that he can alert others necessary to get the job done. On July 13th, W4FYR-Emergency Coordinator for Pinellas County, held a surprise drill to see how many stations could be contacted; 18 responded to the call on SPARC.

By-Laws Committee: K4FCW-Jim Keyes; K4QG-Art Monsees & K4NE-Lew Sieck, presented the Amended By-Laws suggested for members to consider.

1976

The new officers for 1976 were: Pres., W4FNY-Bill Cox; V-Pres., WB4LWB-John Merada; Secty., W4CTM-Larry Miner; Treas., W4VIP-Frank Ryll. Executive Committee: W4BNM-Art Wedde; W4DRN-Ed Harney & K4GBL-Stan Kahn, with Station Trustee: W4EWS-Art Ashley for W4GAC & K4SCL-Woody Huddleston. They were installed at a dinner dance held Jan. 9th, at the Bath Club, Redington Beach. A vote of thanks was given W4TDK-Naomi for all the wonderful years she devoted to the Club business. Repeater Team Committee looking for a new repeater site.

The February meeting was dedicated as "W4TDK-Naomi Spence Night", honoring her for the many years of service; however, due to illness,

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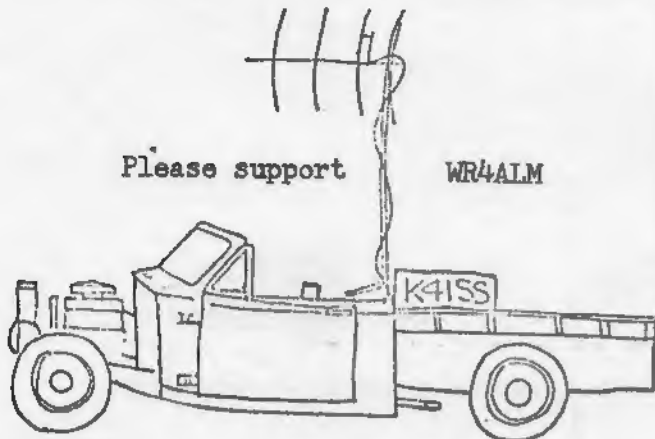
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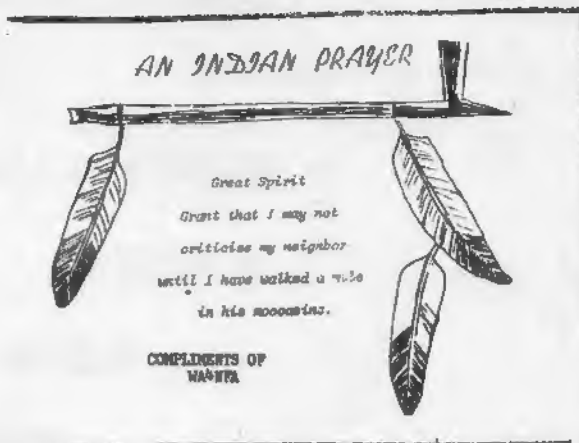
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